THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Scheduled caste status for Bangla speaking people in Uttarakhand

†703. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a lot of Bangla speaking social groups, having the status of Scheduled Caste in their original places and in West Bengal and Orissa have settled in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether these communities have been asking for Scheduled Caste status for years and a proposal has been sent by the State Government to the Union Government supporting their demand; and

(c) if so, the number of occasions when such proposals were received and by when favourable decision would be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Bengali speaking refugees migrated from the erstwhile East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) and settled in the State of Uttarakhand. They did not have the status of Scheduled Castes in their original place.

However, the State Government of Uttarakhand sent a proposal to include Namasudra, Pond, Poundra and Manjhi communities in the list of Scheduled Castes. The proposal was returned to the State Government on 30.12.2003 alongwith the views of Registrar General of India. It is not poosible to indicate a time frame for a favourable decision.

Setting up of DDRCs in Madhya Pradesh

†704. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: **Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in all the districts of the State not having such Centres;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been cleared;

(c) if not, the present status of the proposal and by when it would be cleared; and

(d) the names of districts cleared for setting up of DDRCs in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in the unserved districts

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

had been received from the State of Madhya Pradesh. In response to which, DDRCs at Chhindwara, Sehore, Guna, Vidisha and Shivpuri have already been sanctioned.

(d) Details are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Districts cleared for setting up DDRCs in the country during the last three years (2004-07)

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the DDRCs approved
1..	2004-05	Nagaoan+Marigaon, Dhemji+Lakhimpur (Assam), East Champaran, Kaimur, Begusarai (Bihar), Lunglei+Lunglit, Kolasib+Mamit (Mizoram), Tuensang, Mon (Nagaland), Ganjam, Jajapur (Orissa), Hoshiarpur, Bhatinda (Punjab), Maharajganj, Raibarielly, Muzzafarnagar (UP)
2.	2005-06	Nil
3.	2006-07	Barapeta, Dhubri, Jorhat, Karimganj (Assam), Nicobar (A&N), East Kamang, Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Katihar Bhojpur, Madhubani, Aurangabad, Vaishali (Hajipur), Araria (Bihar), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Chhindwara, Sehore, Guna, Vidisha, Shivpuri (MP), Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh), Kinnaur (HP), Cooch Behar, Birbhum at Bolpur (WB), Bidar (Karnataka), Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh), Keonjhar, Nabrangpur (Orissa), Moga, Nawanshahr (Punjab), Thoubal, Churachandpur (Manipur), Janitia Hills, East Garo Hills (Meghalaya), Dhalai, North Tripura (Tripura), Fatehabad (Haryana), Baramulla, Poonch, Doda (J&K), Pathanamthita (Kerala), Karaikal (Pondicherry), Lakshadweep (Lakshadweep), Mathura (UP), Gondia, Nanded, Hingoli (Maharashtra), Nainital (UP) Pali, Jalore (Rajasthan) and Peramblur (Tamilnadu).

Free higher education for tribals in USA

705. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some tribal students of Orissa are proposed to be provided free higher education in USA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; *inter-alia,* indicating the time-frame within which the proposal would get materialized?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to provide free higher education in USA to some tribal students in Orissa. However, under the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe candidates, 15 scholarships per year may be awarded to eligible ST candidates for pursuing higher studies